

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated September 22, 2003, claims 1-8 are noted as pending. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Miki, U.S. Patent No. 5,892,276 (Miki). Claim 8 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miki. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102

The invention as claimed in claim 1 provides for driver cells located at a die edge, with an array of bond pads between the driver cells and the die core. Additional driver cells are located between the array of bond pads and the core. This is contrary to prior semiconductor devices where the bond pads are located at the die edge and the driver cells are located between the bond pads and the die core. In particular, Miki clearly discloses that the bond pads 4B are located at the die edge and the driver cells 8P are located farther away from the die edge than the bond pads 4B (see figure on cover). It should be noted that the structure labeled "3" in the figure on the cover (Figure 12) is not a die edge, but rather identifies I/O buffer circuit structures (see Figure 1 and column 5, lines 48-49, as well as column 8, lines 38-39).

To more clearly see how Miki differs from the claimed invention, look at Figure 1 of Miki. Figure 1 clearly shows that the bond pads 4 are located around the periphery (at the edge) of the semiconductor die 1. Figure 1 also clearly shows that driver cells 3 are located between the bond pads 4 and the core logic cells 2. There is no disclosure of

driver cells located outside of the bond pads. That is, there are no driver cells between the bond pads and the die edges. Therefore, claims 1-8 is distinguished over Miki.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

As discussed above, claims 1-8 are distinguished over Miki. Therefore, claim 8 is patentable over Miki.

CONCLUSION:

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-8 are distinguished over the cited art and are in condition for allowance. Allowance of claims 1-8 is respectfully requested.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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